



**PAYNE III, Kenneth Montelle**

On December 26th, 2018, Ken Payne passed from life into death at Serenity House in Santa Barbara. He was born on March 19th, 1945 at Huntington Memorial hospital in Pasadena to Kenneth Montelle Payne Jr. and his wife Barbara Abbe Morse. Ken became the eldest of seven children and was the big brother that his younger siblings Katherine, John, Carol, Freeman, Diana and David looked up to and adored.

A kind, playful and athletic boy, Ken's most nostalgic young memories were vacations and summers spent with the extended family at Lake Arrowhead, where his love for watersports began. He attended the private high school Flintridge Preparatory in La Canada which later guided him in his decision to attend Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. His college experience from 1963-67 deeply impacted him with lifelong friends, his participation in the Sigma Nu fraternity, and his dedication to the waterski and crew teams which he loved. Ken would return to Rollins for his 35th and 45 year college reunions to have memorable and nostalgic days with his old crew team that he held so dearly to his heart.

In 1967, Ken joined the Air Force as a commissioned officer during the Vietnam war. He underwent Officer Training School at the Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and later was stationed stateside where he was dedicated to maintaining the motor pool's military vehicles. He was transferred to many Air Force bases around the country and in time became the reigning badminton champ among fellow lieutenants. His knowledge and love of automobiles during this time launched him into a 42 year career of selling cars when he moved to Santa Barbara in 1971.

In 1983 he married Lindy Graham and raised two children together over the course of the next two decades. He was a loving and dedicated husband and father who lived for his family. His 25 year tenure at the Graham Chevrolet Cadillac dealership greatly endeared him to his colleagues and the greater Santa Barbara public. His love for classic hot-rod cars, Air + Space museums, long distance running, dear friends and loved ones, his profession, and involvement in his children's lives propelled him to be his best self.

In 2007, Ken met the last great love of his life, Dale Van Mill, where they embarked on a personal 12 year journey as companions. Their love for each other flourished as they made a house into a home together and extensively travelled around the country and abroad exploring the world together. Ken was a sweet and gentle soul who died surrounded by those that loved him dearly. He is so terribly missed.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister Katherine Abbe Payne Kipling. Cherishing his memory are his three brothers John Payne, Freeman Payne, and David Payne and his two sisters Carol Fechtman and Diana Payne. He leaves behind his beloved partner Ms. Dale Van Mill, his two children Taylor Graham Payne and Kenneth Montelle Payne IV, and his daughter-in-law Inga Payne.

His life will be celebrated at a private ceremony with close friends and family, on Saturday, January 19th, 2019.

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